



Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

July 9, 2013

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

On behalf of the citizens of Tulsa, I thank you for postponing penalties against employers under the Affordable Care Act. Anxiety and confusion about the Affordable Care Act is high among employers and this postponement provides some relief to our business community.

Like most Tulsans, I am deeply concerned about the Affordable Care Act and its impact on the economy. Due to the high cost and the continuance of uncertainty coming out of Washington, D.C., business owners will not invest in new infrastructure or create jobs and increase wages. I encourage you to permanently drop this business mandate.

For the government of the City of Tulsa, the Affordable Care Act will cause a five percent increase in our FY 2013-14 health insurance budget. Of the nearly \$20 million we spend on health coverage, our financial team estimates that we will pay \$1 million to comply with the Affordable Care Act. This is devastating to an already tight budget. That diversion of revenue would otherwise be spent for police, fire protection, and infrastructure investment. Core services for our tax payers are being negatively impacted.

As you can see, the impact of the Affordable Care Act will have a negative effect on not only business owners, but taxpayers as well. I encourage you to find a solution based on sound, fiscally conservative principles. Increasing local taxes and decreasing core services are not prudent options.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact my office at your convenience.

Best Regards,



Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr.
Mayor